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THE שקל SHEKEL

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

AINA's 8th Study Tour

Dead Sea-Scrolls (Conclusion)

Traveller's Guides of the Past

The Coin's Third Side

Unusual Jewish Coins

News of AINA Activities

Medal Honors Entebbe Raid

Club Newsletter Items



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear six times a year with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. THE SHEKEL will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to all related numismatic events.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, THE SHEKEL will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

The Editor's Notebook . . .

This issue of *The Shekel* is rich with news of active AINA members. To personalize the AINA 8th Annual Study Tour of past March, two of the female participants permitted use of pages from diaries created to revive the extensive experiences each encountered in their first visit to Israel. AINA's participation in the Bicentennial Celebration of America will last longer than any of us, said Ed Janis at an Editorial Board meeting where he reported that the AINA Bicentennial medal issue of numbered sets had been sold out . . . and since then we have learned that nearly 150 AINA members elected to add one of the gold medals with the Washington bust to his collection. In any event only a maximum issue of 300 such medals had been planned. Owners will have one of a limited, limited edition. Ron Grad's column this month goes all the way to Tierra del Fuego (Land of Fire? Fiery Earth?) to tell an amazing numismatic tale. And we conclude the dramatic story of the Dead Sea scrolls discovery in this issue too. Martin Morgenstern reports on the third side of a coin in these pages. From all this, you can see why we think this is a Super-Shekel. — G. G.

The SHEKEL

א'תשנ"ו

Volume IX, No. 4

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July-August 1976

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Morris Bram



For some people, the climax to the celebration in connection with America's Bicentennial was the adventure of the Tall Ships . . . the majestic fleet which entered New York Harbor and around which a joyous outpouring of friendship and patriotic fervor flowed through the millions of participants who stood on the Palisades, in river edge parks and atop buildings to share the moment. Strangers shared food and wine and shoulder to shoulder thrilled to the music, the parade of the visiting four-masters, the fireworks cascading over the Statue of Liberty.

AINA has helped to make 1976 a spectacular moment to be enjoyed forever in America's rededication to the Principals which have brought greatness to our country by our own Convention events and the more tangible medal with the bust of Washington.

BUT THE REAL BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION within AINA is the race to growth. 1976: this is the year where within weeks we formed such new clubs in the East as the *INS of Northern New Jersey* and the *INS of Southern New Jersey*. In the West, the great metropolis centered around the *City of Los Angeles* where four clubs are active with events, dinners and educational programs has now given birth to a fifth club; we welcome the emergence of the *INS of Los Angeles*. In the South . . . a hearty greeting of welcome to the *INS of Tampa*.

WE'LL STILL BE CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL in the months still ahead. AINA is proud to announce the in-formation groups in New York State's Rockland County (a northern suburb of NYC) . . . but

the Northwest enters into the AINA way of life with an *INS of Seattle* (Washington) . . . and, let's hear a real, wide-open hearty roar for the coming, nearly-here, God-how-we're glad-to-see-you . . . *INS of ALASKA!!*

I can't mention the Alaska club without getting an inevitable. "How about Hawaii?" We're willing; we're anxious. We'll have to write to numismatists in Hawaii. Then its Honolulu as AINA's most distant flag in the Pacific!

With this growth comes increased responsibilities: more mail, new names, more meetings and events to cover, more bookkeeping entries, more of everything. I expect to rely more heavily on the AINA Board of Directors for the planning, administrative guidance and supportive planning. The time is long past when a Board member could be a letterhead name or a titled bystander. AINA's membership has shown that it will support local action and attend national events. AINA needs more executive participation if the AINA growth is not to be an anchor pulling us down instead of a giant base on which we can build a strong permanent building.

If you are a member of AINA or are in a club with a member of the Board, don't be bashful about asking him what he has been doing for AINA lately. If he can't tell you what, don't be embarrassed to ask: *Why?*

If you'll ask hard questions, you could become an AINA leader soon too? If you're that kind, are you thinking of moving . . . to Hawaii?

Shalom,
Morris Bram, *President*

TWO WOMEN WRITE OF THEIR FIRST TIME VISITS TO ISRAEL

by Donna Simms

Many have asked me since the recent AINA tour (March, 1976) group returned, *"how was it?"*; *"did I enjoy it as much as my previous two visits to Israel?"*; and *"why would I return to Israel for the third time?"*

Being mostly a stranger to the group at the beginning never bothered me because there was a common bond between all of us: coin collecting of Israel. Whether it be the mate of a collector, a dealer by profession, relative of a collector or a lone collector (like myself), there was a bond between us.

Tour members got along with each other rather well as a whole; many friendships were made and some hopefully for many years to come. It's amazing to me to think I met new friends from New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Delaware, Florida, Illinois and Canada; yes, even some from here in California.

Being a novice collector of Israel's coinage, I enjoyed getting to meet and know personally two very fine editors, several dealers, AINA president Morris Bram, and Yitzhak Avni, Director-General of the IGCNC. Some of these people I only knew previously from their speeches, in buying Israel material or reading of their articles. It was of real pride within myself to know I could join in on their conversations even with my small knowledge of Israel's coins and medals.

So many of the places we visited were so meaningful to me! The holy places, no matter of which faith, really meant so much to most of us. (It did get rather frustrating to quite a few of us when some amongst us never stopped talking or laughing in these holy places. My feeling is, no matter the place or religion it belongs to, you should show reverence.)

Continued on page 4

by Sylvia Krasner

For A.I.N.A., this trip to Israel is the Eighth, but for Seymour and myself, *our First!* 65 people, made up our tour group total. We would be touring to two buses, the Blue and the Red, and each of us received a color-coded plastic name tag, designating which bus we were to be on. For us, the blue bus would be our wheels in Israel. Security checking by El Al personnel was thorough but pleasant and quick, first at the check-in counter and then again, in small, private booths, for carry-on luggage. We boarded the 747 Jumbo Jet; we were winging it to the Middle East!

The A.I.N.A. group was seated together and there was an atmosphere of warm comradery among us. As the plane descended on Ben Gurion Airport, the music on the intercom

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Bram honored during AINA Tour at King David Hotel.

In Jerusalem at the King David Hotel, my room overlooked the Old City. One morning when we had to rise early for a long day, opening the window was a breathtaking view of sights and sounds. The fresh smell of rain was still in the air, birds were singing, church bells were ringing and the sun was rising over the walls. This was the most beautiful and inspiring view I had ever witnessed. It was absolutely soul searching and reaching. Tears came to my eyes when reality hit! We would be leaving this beautiful place in a few days.

AINA included Eilat for this first time this year on the tour schedule. It was the most fun-spot highlight of the entire trip: the atmosphere is one of warmth, relaxation and beach air. Even though we were there for only one night, it was a time filled with activities. After the banquet, festivities of Purim were held. Sonnie became Queen Esther #2; Fred danced with a belly dancer; and we closed out the place. After that, a dozen of us took a stroll along the beach road. *How eerie it was to see the lights of Aqaba so close. How peaceful it was walking in the cool sea air.* Spotting the Big Dipper aroused a conversation of which end pointed to the North Star.

Coming back to the hotel they had to unlock the door for us. And guess who had to summon the desk to open their door that was mistakenly locked from the inside. That clerk must have thought I was crazy, but again, what memories.

Several tour members earned various nicknames and throughout daily conversations these nicknames were used and all in fun. Not until my return home did I learn that I too had been given a nickname. Someday I will ask a certain person exactly his meaning of the word; and how *he* meant it because I do not know the definition of that many Hebrew words.

Throughout the entire tour, I could see where AINA has included sights and events that would include the gentile participants' enjoyment along with the Jewish. What so many people don't understand is that a person does not

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Visiting the ancient synagogue in Capernaum (top); Sylvia Krassner in the Maritime Museum in Haifa (center); the guide, Elie, explains the background of the synagogue in Capernaum to the AINA tour members of one of the buses (bottom).

**Photos by
Sylvia and
Seymour Krasner**



First names of 1000 trees honoring AINA officers and friends.

began playing "Hevenu Sholom Aleichem". The passengers joined in singing along, with tremendous pride and enthusiasm! The emotional feeling, as the wheels of the big El Al Jet touched down on Israeli soil, was overwhelming; the eyes of more than a few were wet with tears! We were transported by bus to Tel Aviv, where we began our stay at the Dan. Free time on Friday afternoon, when we arrived, gave us the opportunity we needed to rest up after the approximately 10-hour plane trip.

Our dinner in the hotel, was a typical, festive Friday night meal, with all the courses like Mama used to make: the *chollah* and wine in the center of the table. The *gefilita* fish, chicken soup with *matzo* balls, roast chicken with vegetables and strudel and tea were served beautifully in the elegantly simple dining room of the Dan. Following dinner we joined others and taxied to the Z.O.A. House where an *Oneg Shabbat* was in progress, welcoming American Tourists to Israel. The performers entertained us

with several Israeli dances, Yiddish and Israeli songs, and whenever possible, the audience participated in a community sing.

Saturday, *Shabbat* (the Sabbath) a day of rest in Israel. We were completely at leisure for the day. Everyone was free to be on their own, and Seymour and I decided to go to the *Museum Ha'aretz*, but first, we had our breakfast in the hotel: more like a dinner! A buffet table of considerable length stands laden with a fantastic array of juices, eggs, herring, lox, cheeses and spreads, sardines, salads, rolls, coffee, tea, milk, and even Sanka. It was difficult to choose, but it was even more difficult to stop eating and I thought we would never have time to get to the museum. Somehow, we managed to get there and found it to be a complex of several different museums; Glass Museum (displays of very ancient hand-blown glass), Ceramics Museum, Science Museum, and the Kadman Numismatic Museum, which was of special interest to our

group. We spent several interesting hours here and then returned to the hotel.

Our A.I.N.A. Welcome dinner was a somewhat unique Wine and Cheese buffet, but the real treat came after dinner, when Morris Bram introduced the two charming gentlemen who were to address us. The first was a familiar figure and good friend to A.I.N.A., Mr. Yitzhak Avni, Director-general of the IGCME, who spoke briefly about items of interest in numismatics. Mr. Avni expressed his delight in welcoming the A.I.N.A. group and after a few warm and sincere greetings, he proceeded to introduce Mr. Aviad Yafeh, our guest speaker.

Mr. Yafeh is a member of Israel's governing body, the *Knesset*, where he is the Majority Leader and Whip of the leading Labor Party. He worked very closely with previous leaders of Israel, Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir. His dynamic personality came through immediately and he captured the complete attention of the entire audience.

He spoke of his life as an Israeli, of Israel's trials and tribulations, its needs, its tight defense, its incredibly high defense budget and its unbelievably high taxes. He possessed a remarkable sense of humor, and I found myself wishing that his speech would never end! Aviad Yafeh's talk was a hard act to follow, but Morris Bram did it with ease when he presented to everyone present, a personalized, 1976 Bicentennial plaque of clear lucite, inside of which was mounted three newly minted U. S. Bicentennial coins and three newly minted Israeli coins. It was, indeed, an exciting evening!

We were rolling! We went from Tel Aviv to old Jaffa, drove through the Flea Market, where merchants sell their wares in the open streets. We went by the Mikveh Israel, the first agricultural school in Israel, and the Richon Le Zion, where Rothschild established the first wine cellars and the first wine industry, Carmel, began to flourish. It was in this area, too, that the first flag with the Mogen David Zion was unfurled and where the *Hatikvah* was first sung as a national



A fruit stand in Jericho (top); the Krassners walk on the Tel of Megiddo (center); Going down into the tunnel and water system in Megiddo (bottom).

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anthem. We viewed the many plastic farms where acres of plants are grown successfully in long, low tunnels of plastic, which protects the plants from frost and keeps the moisture in, conserving precious water.

We arrived at Kibbutz Yad Mordecai, which is near the former Gaza Strip. This kibbutz was overrun and captured by the Egyptians in May, 1948 after a fierce 6-day battle. It was liberated in November, 1948. Wooden figures of Egyptians and tanks have been placed in the fields, simulating the battle. This kibbutz is a memorial to those who died defending it. We went to the Warsaw Ghetto Museum of Yad Mordecai, dedicated to the Warsaw Uprising. The kibbutz was named after Mordecai Anilewitz, Commandant of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

The new city of Ashkelon was the next thing we saw. It is a coastal resort, settled after the War of 1948. There are lovely summer homes near the beaches. We soon stopped at the National Park to see the Ashkelon Antiquities, the remains of ruins of the Roman Era. Two marble sarcophagii were unearthed from the 2nd and 3rd centuries, completely carved with figures. (*Sarcophagus*: a burial receptacle). Also dug up in 1925, were walls of stone, ruins of Corinthian statues and the remains of the Temple of Caesar Augustus.

Ashdod Harbor — Ashdod Yam is



Morris Bram (left) and Jack Berman of Florida in the AINA Grove.

the second largest seaport next to Haifa, which is the largest in Israel. That's where we stopped next. Construction began in 1962 and in 1964, they were already exporting citrus fruits. This harbor serves the southern part of Israel. Ten years ago, there was nothing here but windswept, barren land. Now there are about 57,000 people. There is an absorption center. Ashdod is an immigrant town and many different languages are spoken here. We left the harbor and headed back to Tel Aviv for lunch and a tour of the city. Much of the time, we followed the coastline, giving us a good view of the Mediterranean Sea.

Old Jaffa (Yafo) was our first stop after lunch. It is 4,000 years old. 400 years ago, it was under Turkish rule. We walked along the bumpy cobblestone streets, ducked in and out of the little artist shops and night clubs tucked away in the narrow alleyways, and took lots of pictures in this quaint and unique place. The buses made their way back to Tel Aviv and we cruised the city, taking in all the important landmarks that our guide Elie pointed out to us.

WE TOUR TEL AVIV TOO

In 1909, a desert existed where Tel Aviv now stands. 60 Jewish families, led by Meir Dizengoff, built the first houses here. Dizengoff became Tel Aviv's first mayor. Tel Aviv is now a thriving metropolis. We saw the Habimah Theatre, which is housed in a circular building. We also saw the Helena Rubinstein Museum of Modern Art, the Mann Auditorium and several main thoroughfares, like Allenby Road, named after Lord Allenby, British Commander-in-Chief, who captured Palestine from the Turks in 1917-1918; Dizengoff St., Ben Yehuda, St., named after Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, reviver of the Hebrew Language. Dizengoff Circle is a park-like area in the center of the city, where a fountain displays illuminated waters on holidays. After a pretty thorough city tour, we called it a day, and made our way back to the hotel.

A VIEW FROM THE TRAVELLER'S GUIDES

by Dr. Samuel Halperin

What does a compulsive collector do when stymied for want of new numismatic material? After working on coins, banknotes, medals and tokens, the incorrigible collector may branch into pins of Jewish organizations, into maps of the Holy Land, into histories and travel accounts of the rediscovery and development of Palestine in the last three centuries.

On just such a side excursion, I came full circle, finding that traveler's guides of the Holy Land contribute greatly to the reader's understanding of the role of money amid the changing fortunes of the Holy Land. While my collection of Palestine travel guides is by no means extensive, a few excerpts from several will illustrate this numismatic value of such guides.

John Murray's *A Handbook for Travellers in Syria and Palestine*, published in London, 1858, is the oldest of my travel guides. Here are some of its entries about money:

"English gold is the best passport in Syria—more powerful than all the orders of Sultan or Pasha. It opens every door . . .

* * *

"Travellers are recommended to negotiate as few [drafts] as possible at Jerusalem or Damascus, where low exchange and high commission are the order of the day. Beyrout is the best place for obtaining supplies of cash, for there there is a branch of Ottoman Bank, besides two English mercantile firms of the very highest respectability . . .

* * *

"To no coin in the world can the appellation of 'filthy lucre' be more aptly applied than to that of Turkey. And filthy as it is, there is not half enough of it to supply the wants of the country.

The consequence is, that the gold and silver of nearly every nation in Europe is now current in Syria. The Turkish piastre, worth about 2d. sterling, is the standard by which all others are valued. There is no permanent fixed value, however, for any coin; and even in different localities coins have different nominal values. This is perplexing to the traveller, and still more so to the merchant and banker; but it must be endured till the government becomes rich enough and enterprising enough to strike a sufficient coinage of its own.

* * *

"The best and most convenient coin for Syria is the sovereign or napoleon in gold, and the Spanish dollar or 5-franc piece in silver. They are well known and pass freely everywhere. Turkish gold and silver are equally good, of course, if they can be had.

Forty years later, Karl Baedeker's famed Leipzig-London "Redbook" or *Handbook for Travellers* offered similar counsel to English readers in his third edition of 1898:

"Large sums of money can be carried safely only in the form of letters of credit or circular notes.

"The *Crédit Lyonnais*, the *Deutsche Palästina- & Orientgesellschaft* at Berlin, and the *Banque Impériale* (a not very accommodating institution) are in correspondence with most of the principal banks in Europe, and have offices or agencies at Damascus, Beirut, Jerusalem, and most of the larger towns of Syria.

"... Paper money seldom passes, and the traveller should invariably refuse to take it. Great confusion in the value of the current coins is caused by the existence of two rates of exchange: first, the government rate, and secondly that in use in trade and ordinary life. This latter rate again varies greatly in different towns, and the Austrian post-office and the railway-companies have fixed a rate of their own for certain coins.



REMAINS OF A BRIDGE ON THE RIVER JORDAN, at its outlet from the Sea of Galilee
W. F. Lynch, 'Narrative of the United States Expedition to the River Jordan and the Dead Sea,' 1849.

"English and French gold (as also Russian) passes everywhere; German gold can only be changed without loss at some German houses. Foreign silver is prohibited all over Turkey, but francs and shillings (marks are refused) are taken in the seaports. Egyptian money is refused everywhere, and travellers coming from Egypt should change Egyptian money for European . . .

Fourteen years later, *Baedeker's* fifth edition of 1912, published shortly before the first World War, reported no improvement in Holy Land monetary circumstances. Again pointing out the difference between the various exchange rates then in use — the government or official rate, and trade or market rate — *Baedeker's* gives this example:

"The (market) rate varies greatly in different towns. Thus a mejidi is officially (e.g. in the Turkish telegraph-offices) worth 19 pi., while it passes current in the ordinary traffic of Jerusalem for 23 pi., and at Gaza for 46 pi. The traveller should keep himself posted as to the current rate of exchange.

"French gold (20 franc pieces) is the most universally current form of foreign money, but English sovereigns and Russian gold (imperial, 15 roubles; also 10 and 5 rouble pieces) also pass practically everywhere. German gold is difficult to exchange without loss. Foreign silver is prohibited all over Turkey, but French and Swiss francs and shillings are taken at the seaports, and in Jerusalem and Damascus; German, Italian, Greek, and other silver coins are generally refused. Egyptian money is refused everywhere. The traveller should keep his money always under lock and key and expose as little of it as possible, thus removing temptation from the natives.

"Money should be exchanged at a banker's or at a hotel, not at the bazaars or through an ordinary money-changer or dragoman. A full supply of small coins is always convenient and prevents many an overcharge. When travelling into the interior of the country it is almost indispensable, as the villagers generally refuse altogether to give change. — Counterfeit coins are plentiful, so that the traveller should be on his guard against them. Worn coins and perforated coins, such as women wear for necklaces (especially the beshlik and the mejidi) should be rejected."

A dozen years later, the governance of Palestine had passed from Turkish hands to the British. *Cook's Traveller's Handbook for Palestine and Syria*, revised in 1924 by Harry Charles Luke, assistant Governor of Jerusalem, gives a new account of monetary usage in the Holy Land. Unashamedly, *Cook's* advises travellers to carry their money in the form of "Travellers' Cheques issued by Thos. Cook & Son, as these afford great security, and can be cashed readily." *Cook's* offices in Jerusalem and Beirut are also recommended for "all matters connected with Foreign Banking and Exchange."

Cook's goes on to inform visitors:

"There is no Palestinian currency. Legal tender consists of notes issued by the National Bank of Egypt, Egyptian silver and nickel coins, and the English gold sovereign, which is reckoned at 97.50 piastres."

Cook's then illustrates nine Egyptian coins, from 1 millim to 20 piastres in denomination, and warns that Turkish

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JUDAICA AMERICANA

by
Roni
Grad



For this column of *Judaica Americana* we reach as far south as one can go on the American continent. Two coins appear under the heading "*Tierra Del Fuego*" in catalogues of gold coins of the world. One shows a denomination of one gramo and the other a denomination of five gramos. Both were struck in 1889, and both include the name "Popper" across the center of the obverse. These coins bring to mind a fascinating story in numismatic *Judaica*: the story of Julius Popper whose name has been immortalized on these coins.

Before we proceed to the story of Julius Popper, let us first identify the "country" issuing the coins. *Tierra Del Fuego* is an island off the coast of Southern Argentina. The name means "Fireland", and the island derives its name from the fires observed nightly by sailors who first passed by the island when they crossed the Straits of Magellan in 1519. Between 1826 and 1830, England sent a number of explorers to survey the island; among them were Captain Kings and the naturalists Fitz-Roy and Darwin.

For many years *Tierra Del Fuego* was claimed by both Argentina and Chile. Rather than risk war, both countries submitted to arbitration by the United States, and on October 23, 1881 the dispute was resolved in favor of Chile.

In 1886, a number of Chileans of the southern city of Magellanes chartered a boat which took them to *Tierra Del Fuego* in search of gold. They were inexperienced, inadequately equipped and unprepared for the hardships which faced them. Their expedition failed, and they returned to Magellanes. Word of their experiences

later gave rise to the story of Julius Popper.

Relatively little is known about the early life of Julius Popper. He was born in 1857 in Bucharest, Rumania. His father was the principal of the first Jewish school in Bucharest. Julius was an impressive figure of a man, very bright and with natural qualities of leadership. After studying engineering in Paris, he set out to travel around the world. While in Argentina, he heard of the alleged gold discoveries on *Tierra Del Fuego*, organized a company called "The Gold Washing Company of the South," and succeeded in attracting the necessary support to organize a well equipped and properly trained expedition to the island in 1887.

He obtained from the government a concession of about 10 square miles, as well as official and military control over it. Julius Popper designed a machine for extracting gold, and his success on the island was immediate: within three weeks of arrival on the island he was obtaining gold at the rate of over a pound a day.

Popper's treatment of the native Indians and of the workers he employed was considerate, and the relations between them were very friendly. However, Popper and his workers were not to be allowed to go about their business undisturbed. Before long his success became well known, and a sense of excitement gripped the people of Magellanes. A worker was supposedly able to gather 100 grams of gold on *Tierra Del Fuego* in a single day. Julius Popper was faced with wave after wave of invading adventurers eager to participate in the new

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Unpublished and Unusual Jewish Coins*

A. REIFENBERG

Hebrew University, Jerusalem

JOHN HYRCANUS (135-104 B.C.)

1. AE	<i>Wreath of laurel; within inscription:</i>	<i>Double cornucopiae, between which poppy-head.</i>
1.9 gr.	יהוחנן	
13 mm.	הגדל ה	
	חבר ה	
	—ד—	

It will be noticed that instead of the usual inscription 'Jehochanan, the High Priest of the Community of the Jews', this coin reads: 'Jehochanan the Great (High) of the Community of the Jews'. This omission of the word 'Priest' is presumably only a mistake made by the engraver.

HEROD PHILIPP II (4 B.C.-A.D. 34)

2. AE	<i>Head of Augustus to r. Inscription beg. on l. above: TETPA—OY and in field to l. and r. LE (Year 5 = A.D. 1/2).</i>	<i>Temple with four columns & pediment within which ornament. Inscr. beg. on r. belows CEBACTO[C] KAICAP</i>
3.7 gr.		
18 mm.		

This coin shows that Philipp started issuing coins in the fifth year of his reign. The coin is most unusual in having the name of Philipp and the date on the obverse, whereas the designation of the Caesar appears on the reverse.

A. REIFENBERG

FIRST REVOLT (A.D. 66-70)

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 3. AE | Chalice with knob on stem and | Ethrog between two |
| 5.1 gr. | broad rim ending on both sides in | lulabs. Inscr.: |
| 20 mm. | a pearl. Inscr.: לגאלת ציון | שנת ארבע |

It will be seen that the form of the cup on this coin is different from the usual representations.^{1,2} The chalice is in fact most similar to the chalice represented on the shekels of the first year of the revolt.³ This is a further proof that these coins should not be attributed to Simon, but to the First Revolt (cf. Kanael's article in this issue of the *Journal*).

AGRIPPA II (A.D. 50-93)

- | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 4. AE | Head of Domitian to r.; laureate | Nike to r., l. foot on |
| 5.1 gr. | Inscr.: ΔΟΜΙΤΙΑΝΟC---- | shield supported on l. |
| 20 mm. | | knee. Around beg. on |
| | | l. inscr.: |
| | | ΕΤΟΥΗΙ ΒΑ ΑΓΡΙΠΠΑ |

The date (year 18 = A.D. 78) on this type of coin was hitherto unknown.

- | | | |
|---------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 5. AE | Head of Domitian as above. | Nike to r. as above. |
| 5.6 gr. | Inscr.: | Inscr.: |
| 20 mm. | ΔΟΜΙΤΙΑ-- AP | ΕΤΟΥΙΘ ΒΑ ΑΓΡΙΠ-- |

As in the case of No. 4 the year (19 = A.D. 79) on this type of coin was hitherto unknown.

SECOND REVOLT (A.D. 132-135)

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6. AR ⁴ | Within a wreath inscr.: (sic!) | Lyra (kitbara) with |
| 2.9 gr. | שמ | four strings. Inscr. beg. |
| 18 mm. | נעו | on r. below: |
| | | שב לחר ישראל |

A similar coin (same obv. and rev. dies) is illustrated in a sale catalogue,⁵ where it is wrongly described. Otherwise the type is unknown.

¹ I have to thank Mr. L. Kadman-Kaufmann for drawing my attention to this coin.

² *British Museum Catalogue, Vol. Palestine*, Pl. XX, 12-14 and Reifenberg, A.: *Ancient Jewish Coins*. Jerusalem. 1947, No. 6. ³ *British Museum Catalogue*, (supra, n. 2), Pl. XXX, 1 and 2, and Reifenberg, *op. cit.* supra, n. 2), Nos. 137 and 138.

⁴ Found at Bether (Bittir).

⁵ Collection du Colonel Allotte de la Fuye: *Monnaies grecques*. Paris, 1925, No. 1125.

UNPUBLISHED JEWISH COINS

7. AR	<i>Bunch of grapes with leaf and</i>	<i>Lyra (kithara) with</i>
3.3 gr.	<i>tendril. Around beg. on l. inscr.:</i>	<i>three strings. Around</i>
22 mm.	שמעון	<i>beg. on r. inscription:</i>
		לחרות ירושלם

It will be seen that the form of the letter 'ayin' is most unusual, having a cross-like sign within the circle. As far as was possible to ascertain all coins with this peculiar form of 'ayin' come from the same die.⁶ Although a number of specimens have been published, the form of this letter has never been commented on. The letter resembles a 'teth' in ancient Hebrew inscriptions, but is, of course, not meant to represent a 'teth'. A study of the dies shows that we are not dealing with a damage caused by wear and tear, but with a peculiarity of the die-engraver. Similar cross-shaped forms of 'ayin' occur on ossuaries of the first centuries B.C. and A.D.⁷ Is it possible that the engraver put this sign within the normal circle-formed 'ayin' of the ancient alphabet in order to explain the letter, since this ancient form was not in use anymore?

8. AR	<i>Bunch of grapes with leaf and</i>	<i>Jug to r. (No palm-</i>
3.2 gr.	<i>tendril. Around beg. on l. Inscr.:</i>	<i>branch.) Inscr. beg on</i>
20 mm.	שמעון	<i>r. below: יר—שלם</i>
		---GER---

This type (without palm-branch on the reverse and bunch of grapes on the obverse) was not known to Hamburger⁸ and has appeared in two sale catalogues^{9,10} only. The same rev. die ('Jug without palm-branch') as illustrated here has been used for several coins (with the obv. 'name in wreath'),¹¹ but there also exists a different die.¹² It is therefore not to be assumed that the omission of the palm-branch has to be attributed to an error of the coin-engraver.¹³

⁶ e.g. *British Museum Catalogue*, (supra, n. 2), Pl. XXXV, Nos. 1, 2, 10 (obv.).

⁷ Lidzbarski, M.: *Handb. d. nordsem. Epigraphik*, II. Weimar, 1898, Pl. XLVI.

⁸ Hamburger, L.: *Die Münzprägungen während des letzten Aufstandes der Israeliten*. Berlin, 1892, p. 25.

⁹ Hamburger, J.: *Lager Katalog XI*, Frankfurt, 1909, No. 1333.

¹⁰ Collection du Colonel Allotte de la Fuye, *op. cit.* (supra, n. 5), No. 1151, from which the specimen illustrated here has been taken.

¹¹ *British Museum Catalogue*, (supra, n. 2), Pl. XXXIV, No. 7 and a coin in the author's collection.

¹² Collection du Colonel Allotte de la Fuye, *op. cit.* (supra, n. 5),

Nos. 1113 and 1150.

¹³ Hamburger, L.: *loc. cit.* (supra, n. 8).

UNPUBLISHED AND UNUSUAL JEWISH COINS



See preceding pages for identifications.

ISRAELI POLICE STUMBLE ON ALLEGED FAKE COIN OPERATION

Israeli police in the Negev desert metropolis of Beersheba stumbled on an advanced counterfeiting ring while investigating a case of extortion against a money lender, reported the *Jerusalem Post*.

A mould for casting fake gold coins and an estimated quarter of a million Israel pounds' worth of allegedly stolen gold were found in the home of Michael Meroz, already accused in the alleged extortion plot.

Yonah Kaner of Beersheba told authorities that several men had attempted to extort 100,000 Israel

pounds from him by threats against his life and property. Two men were taken into custody in the case.

One reportedly had the gold coins in his possession, which were in turn allegedly traced to jeweller Eliahu Abushadid, who had 147 gold coins and two kilograms of gold ingots in a bank vault.

Police theorized that the ingots were made from stolen and melted jewelry, or smuggled into the country, and that money lender Kaner's extortion threats were directly related to the gold coin counterfeiting.

**NEW
JERSEY
GROUP
HONORS
HAFFNER**

Sylvia Haffner was guest speaker at a recent meeting of the INS of N. J.

Below: L. to R. M. Bram, S. Haffner, A. Greenberg and A. H. Kagan.



**NEW
FACILITIES
FOR
NUMIS-
MATIC
NEWS
WEEKLY
IN WISC.**

AINA officers and N. Y. area's leading numismatists visited Iola, Wisc. at opening of new NNW plant and offices



(above): L. to R. M. Bram; Roger Storm, Mr. and Mrs. V. Alones, Jackson Storm (Gen'l. Chmn. for ANA Conv. 1976); and Chet Krause (rear). Seated: L. to R. Florence Schook, Virginia Culver behind V. Alones and M. Bram.



'Tricks' used on raid in Uganda

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV — About 50 Ugandan
soldiers tried to resist the Israeli
force in Entebbe, the Chief of Staff,
Lt-Gen. Yitzhak Gur,

Hostages back to jubilant Israel

Jerusalem Post Staff
BEN-GURION AIRPORT — The
hostages returned Sunday to
scores of national rejoicing, remi-
nent of the days following the Six
Day War. They came home in three
air force transport planes, two of
which landed at Ben-Gurion Air-
port and the third at an air base

across — some with passion, others
with Uzi. He seemed to be on
good terms with the terrorists.
According to Syver, Amich com-
pletely blamed the Israeli govern-
ment for the "delay" in releasing
the passengers. He said that it was
only the Israelis who were refusing
to release the terrorists in accord-



Operation Jonathan Medal Honors Col. Jonathan Netanyahu.

ENTEBBE RAID TO SAVE HOSTAGES THEME OF NEW MEDAL

The Entebbe Rescue Operation will be immortalized in an official Israel state medal to be issued in November.

Yitzhak Avni, managing director of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation told *The Jerusalem Post* that the corporation had decided to mint a limited edition of an Entebbe medallion. "Our primary aim is to commemorate an historic humanitarian feat," he said. "The commercial aspect—and I think the medal will sell very well—is secondary."

It was thought for a time the issuance of an official Entebbe coin might be detrimental to Israel's relations with African countries.

Avni proposed to his board of directors that a medal be issued since it is not legal tender. A medal can be readied for distribution in two or three months.

Mr. Avni gave the following planned mintage figures, emphasizing that the dies will be destroyed immediately after striking, in order to ensure the preservation of the medals' numismatic value to collectors:

- Gold — 22 carat, 35mm.-one ounce, serially numbered, 3,000 pieces.
- Gold — 18 carat, 30mm.-15 gram, serially numbered, 5,000 pieces.
- Sterling Silver — 59mm. serially numbered, 5,000 pieces.



- Sterling Silver — 45mm. serially numbered, 7,000 pieces.
- Bronze, 59mm. serially numbered, mintage figure to be announced.

The medals are expected to be available by November, and will be offered to the corporation's 130,000 subscribers in Israel and abroad on a first-

come, first-served basis. Dealers will be able to buy them only after subscribers' orders are filled.

Design and prices will not be known until shortly before issue date. It was believed in early August that the 35-mm. gold medal will "most probably" sell for IL3,500.

MEDALS OF THE HOLY LAND

HENRIETTA SZOLD AWARD MEDAL

This medal was struck in Israel by the *Association of American and Canadians in Israel*. It was struck in uniface as they were mounted on plaques for presentation.



Metal: Bronze — uniface
Edge: Plain
Diameter: 59mm

Obverse: Around the rim, in English and Hebrew, "ASSOCIATION OF AMERICANS AND CANADIANS IN ISRAEL;" in the center, the image of Miss. Szold; below, in English, "HENRIETTA SZOLD AWARD;" and above the same inscription in Hebrew.

KAPLAN AWARD MEDAL



This medal was issued in Israel as an annual event for outstanding contributions by the worker to Industry. They were struck uniface as they were mounted on plaques for presentation.
Metal: Bronze — uniface
Edge: Plain

Diameter: 59mm

Obverse: In the center, the emblem of the award; below, in Hebrew "THE KAPLAN AWARD;" around the top of the medal, are loosely knit leaves.

ISRAEL BUILDING WORKERS MEDAL — 1971

This medal was issued for the 25th Anniversary of the *Building Workers Union*. It was struck in uniface as they were mounted on plaques for presentation.

(Continued on page 23)

AN OPEN LETTER TO CLUB MEMBERS

Dear Friends,

I am writing this article with the possibility of bringing to light reasons for each member to support his local club and indirectly to support AINA.

To begin with, each club or specifically INS of Michigan, offers a service to our members consisting of supplying a monthly bulletin, providing a meeting with a full program for the membership throughout the whole year, and in return, we ask from the membership, dues (which in no way pay for the many services we offer). We therefore, usually seek outside sources for raising money, since our expenses are usually greater than the dues received.

Through our club (INS of Mich.) association with AINA we are able to obtain coins and medals at a small discount (not available to the individual) and are able to provide them to our membership. The club makes a small profit. This small profit along with dues, enables each club to become a viable and valuable link in the chain of perpetuating the hobby of coin collecting.

Let me explain further. Take for an example, a gold medal that sells through our membership for \$422.00. The club purchased the medal or coin in such a way that your club is able to make approximately \$20.00 (less than 5%) on every gold medal that is sold. If a person were to purchase that same medal through a direct source, such as directly from AINA, he would have to pay at least \$422.00, plus an additional postage charge for having it shipped to him. By buying the medal through the club, he gets a little break on the postage and he also helps in a significant way to support the club. (Ed. Note: the price of gold is now \$401.15 to club members with pickup at a meeting)

There are cases where some of our membership do purchase coins or medals from other sources and in so doing they are indirectly hurting our Club. When this is done a double burden is placed on AINA who orders on the basis of past experience for member clubs throughout the country from

IGCMC. AINA theoretically knows the approximate needs of member clubs and individuals and orders in advance a number of medals to supply this need. Consequently, if our own members do not purchase through INS of Michigan, and thusly from AINA, and go through other sources, our own requirements of AINA fluctuate and become less. Because of this we lose purchasing power and become an insignificant factor in the market, and because of inconsistency, we are not always able to supply the coins and medals our membership desires. Our standing order service helps to overcome this problem. (Ed. Note: INSCI was one of the first to offer this service.)

Another problem that arises today is coins smuggled out of Israel. If we knowingly purchase such coins or medals we then are encouraging this illegal activity. A ready and eager market encourages robbery and forgery. A recent robbery of Barclay's Discount Bank in Ramat Gan where a substantial number of Ben-Gurion and Bonds gold coins were taken as well as a smaller amount of the 25th Anniversary coins, could have been encouraged by the readily available market. Since it is quite possible that thieves will try to unload their booty in the coin market in this country we should be suspicious of unusual amounts or low prices.

In conclusion, I feel that by buying the coins through INS of Michigan and in this way through AINA, we insure three different things:

1. We are getting a genuine article.
2. We are helping to support the clubs that in turn support Israel.
3. We are supporting our numismatic interests by supporting a Club that promotes programs and bulletins on a 12-month basis that keeps you abreast of of the times.

I feel that this is the direction that we members of INS of Michigan should go.

Sincerely,
Syd Bluestone

HOW THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS WERE FOUND



by Harry Thomas Frank

PART THREE

The intriguing story of the scrolls in America is one that cannot be told in detail here. Suffice it so say that Burrows, Trever and Brownlee were able to continue their work on the texts and to publish them. Now famous, the Dead Sea Scrolls were displayed at various locations in the United States and seen by thousands. The publicity enhanced their value but the Metropolitan's attempts to sell were clouded by claims to the scrolls by the new nations, Jordan and Israel, as well as the go-between Anton Kiraz. Confusion over ownership was such that Yale and Duke universities found reasons not to buy the scrolls. Yale bought a Boswell diary for a reported \$450,000. Duke built another building. The Library of Congress displayed the scrolls but showed little interest in purchasing them. At last they came to rest in a specially prepared safe in the home of a Syrian Orthodox Christian in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Meanwhile all scholars did not

agree with the judgment of Professor Albright and that of a vast and growing host. Tovia Wechsler, a journalist and something of a Hebraist, who had been one of the first to see the scrolls and who at the time had laughed them away, attacked Trever for his views and stoutly maintained that the story of the find was a hoax. Not only the manuscripts were under attack. Metropolitan Samuel was declared an outlaw in Jordan and found his integrity and reputation a matter of widespread debate. He decided to sell the scrolls by whatever means at hand. One way was a simple newspaper ad. On June 1, 1954, the following appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*:

Miscellaneous For Sale

THE FOUR DEAD SEA SCROLLS
Biblical manuscripts dating back to at least 200 B.C. are for sale. This would be an ideal gift to an educational or religious institution by an individual or group.

Box F 206 *Wall Street Journal*.

On July 1, after some delicate negotiations, the scrolls, accompanied by the Metropolitan and two others, came to the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York. There they met Mr. Sidney Esteridge, the would-be purchaser, with his lawyers and several experts. The price, \$250,000, had been agreed upon in advance. It was a bargain by any realistic standard. After considerable discussion of various details in the bill of sale, the matter was consummated. Three months later the "Archbishop Samuel Trust" to aid Syrian Orthodox churches was considerably enriched. But the legal papers for the trust were not properly drawn. The sum was reported as personal income and the United States Internal Revenue Service got most of the purchase price.

For all the Archbishop knew the scrolls were in the private collection of a rich American. In February 1955 the Israeli prime minister announced that these four manuscripts were in Israel. How the scrolls came into the possession of the State of Israel remained somewhat of a mystery until Professor Yigael Yadin told the story. He tells how, on a visit to America, his attention was called to the newspaper ad. He knew the value of the materials and remembered the agonizing attempt of his father, Professor Sukenik, to obtain the scrolls in January of 1948. Yadin determined to try to buy the documents for the State of Israel. A direct approach was unwise. Thus a subterfuge was invented. Mr Esteridge was in fact acting on behalf of Yadin and the Israeli government.

The four scrolls formerly in Metropolitan Samuel's possession thus were returned to Jerusalem to be with other major scrolls from Cave One at Qumram. They came to Hebrew University, which Professor Sukenik had honored with his knowledge for so long. But it was too late for Sukenik. He had died a year earlier. Now it is time to tell his part in the story.

On Sunday, November 23, 1947, Sukenik received a message from a friend of his, Faidi Salahi, a dealer in antiquities. He had something of interest to show the scholar. The next



Repository of the Dead Sea Scrolls is a special scroll-shaped building and display with scroll handle effect. Photo from Zionist Archives and Library.



Prof. Yigael Yadin and President Zalman Shazar at Shrine of the Book. Photo from Zionist Archives and Library.

morning, according to the professor's dramatic account, the two met across one of the barbed wire barricades the British were erecting in an effort to keep violent factions apart. The Armenian held up a scrap of leather. On it were Hebrew characters which Sukenik immediately recognized as being similar to those he had seen on early Jewish funeral urns. For the briefest moment he thought it must be a forgery of some sort. He had never heard of this kind of script on leather, parchment or papyrus other than the Nash. But the man holding it was an old and trusted friend and besides the fragment had all the appearances of authenticity. There and then he made up his mind to buy the document from which it came. Could other fragments be seen? Yes, said the Armenian, they were in Bethlehem. Could they be brought to Jerusalem? Yes.

On Thursday Sukenik, now armed with a pass that allowed him through the barricades, went to his friend's shop and viewed additional pieces of the manuscript. He was convinced. He must go to Bethlehem and deal directly with the Arab dealer who had the document in his possession. For Sukenik to visit an Arab area involved great personal risk. Moreover, the very next day the United Nations was scheduled to vote on the partition of Palestine. Whichever way the vote went, wholesale hostilities were almost sure to follow. His wife and his son, Yigael, then commander of Jewish armed forces, knew the danger and argued against it. Persuasion put off the fulfillment of an archaeologist's dream. Then the UN delayed its vote. Jerusalem held its breath. It was an opening for Sukenik. The day was November 29, 1948.

There is a good deal of confusion about the events of that day with reference to the Dead Sea Scrolls. According to one story Sukenik risked his life by going to Arab Bethlehem. There, according to this version, he was shown three scrolls and even allowed to bring them back to Jerusalem. According to another account, an Arab friend of the professor's brought them to him in Jerusalem. No matter.

The net result is the same. Sukenik came into possession of three scrolls which turned out to be *The Warfare Scroll*, *The Thanksgiving Scroll*, and another copy of *Isaiah* in somewhat poorer condition than the magnificent *Isaiah* manuscript then at St. Mark's.

The day after these ancient Hebrew scrolls came to Hebrew University the United Nations voted to partition Palestine. Much moved by both events Sukenik felt there was something symbolic in the coincidence. Full of joy at the acquisition of the documents, the professor told one of the university librarians. In astonished silence Sukenik listened to a tale this man had to relate. Some months before, he and another of the library staff had gone to St. Mark's Monastery in the Old City to have a look at some manuscripts. The Syrian Metropolitan wanted to know their content and age and whether Hebrew University might wish to acquire them. They were written in Samaritan, the two librarians decided, and were not very old. A little later he had called St. Mark's with the offer of a Samaritan specialist, but Samuel was away. So the matter was dropped.

Stunned, Sukenik could not believe what he was being told. Those so-called Samaritan manuscripts were part of the collection he now had, he was sure of it. His impulse was to go by St. Mark's on his way home, but the Old City was now securely in Arab hands and no one entered without a pass. This he was not likely to get, since his son was who he was. Even if by some miracle he got a pass he had no money to offer for the scrolls.

Sukenik went home and began work on trying to raise funds. Slowly from various sources a little money began to accumulate. Sukenik thought that about £1500 (then about \$6,075) might be enough. Efforts to reach the Syrian priest and open negotiations came to nothing. Then, near the end of January, a letter came from the Old City, from a man on whose property Sukenik had excavated an early Jewish tomb some years before. His name was Anton Kiraz. He offered to show some scrolls that were for sale. The rest of the story you know.



Metal: Silver-plate (gray) - Uniface
Edge: Plain

Diameter: 59mm

Obverse: In the center, stylized building equipment; above, the numeral "25"; on the bottom, in English, "N. U. BUILD. WORKERS, ISRAEL;" below, in Hebrew and English, the dates, "1946-1971;" on the right rim, the Hebrew inscription, "THE LABOR UNION OF BUILDING WORKERS."

MEKOROT MAIM CO.

(WATER RESOURCES) MEDALS

These medals were struck in Israel for the Mekorot Maim Co. in uniface as they were mounted on plaques and presented. A series of three medals have been struck to-date all 59mm.



#1

Bronze — Uniface

Obverse: In Hebrew, above and in in English below, *WITH JOY SHALL YE DRAW OUT WATER OUT OF THE WELLS OF SAL-TION / ISAIAH 12.3.* To the left the company emblem.



#2

Silver - plated (gray) — Uniface

Obverse: Around the upper rim, In Hebrew, "MEKOROT MAIM CO. FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS;" below, a steam-shovel in the desert; below, in Hebrew the same inscription as on number 1.



#3

Silver - plated (gray) — Uniface

Obverse: Inscription same as #1; to the left a tower with a streak of lightning behind it, based on part of a cog; the English letters on the cog and the Hebrew letters "SHIN / CHETH / SAMEKH", above.

NEXT ISSUE OF THE SHEKEL:

*Mysteries of
Israel's Patterns
and Trial Pieces*

The ALPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. I have two different gold coins of Israel that are the same weight, size and fineness. They both have a different color. Does this mean that something is wrong and that the lighter coin contains less gold? R. T. Kingston, N.Y.

A. Nothing is wrong. Gold is always, in an alloyed form. This is basically done for two reasons. The first is that it is impractical to use pure gold for economic and financial reasons. The second is that pure gold is excessively soft; it would pick up more dents and bruises than the alloyed gold coins. The gold content is the same in both of your coins but the alloy is different. For an extreme example, where a planchet of .800 fine gold were alloyed with .200 copper, the color would be a "red" gold. If a planchet containing .800 fine gold were alloyed with .200 silver, the color would be a "white" gold. Depending on the gold's alloying, we find variance in the color of gold.

In the later issues of U.S. gold, the alloy of .900 gold and .100 copper is specified and we find a reasonable sameness in the color of the late (after 1839) gold pieces. I do not believe that the Government of Israel specifies the alloy of gold coins, but does authorize the fineness of the metal, its diameter and weight. You therefore see that in terms of bullion a light-colored gold piece may be worth more if the alloy contains silver rather than copper.

Q. What is to stop an unscrupulous person from grinding out the inscription on the reverse of the Hadassah silver medal and by so doing increase its sales value as shown in Kagan from \$75.00 to \$600.00? T. O., Los Angeles, Calif.

A. I know of no grinding or polishing

process that will remove letters and leave a perfect match with the existing field that could fool a 30X glass. In this particular case, such an action would be foolhardy because both dies of the reverse, excluding the inscriptions, are different. Look at page SM-16 in your *Kagan*. Excluding other differences, note and compare the windows in the circular hospital building. The medal with the inscription has strips between the windows.

Q. I saw some listings of commercial coins of Israel listed as cupro-nickel. Is this some special kind of nickel? J. L., Marquette, Ill.

A. Anytime that you see a listing of cupro-nickel, know that it is an alloy containing copper. The scientific name for copper is *cuprum* and so, any combination would be called *cupro*. Pure nickel is rarely used for coinage these days because it is magnetic; this would foul up most of the coin-operated vending machines and turnstiles.

Many years ago, France, Switzerland and the German Empire did mint *unalloyed* nickel coins. Our five-cent pieces which started in 1866 to date except for the wartime alloy change 1942-1945 are *not* pure nickel. The alloy is one of cupro-nickel, containing .750 copper and .250 nickel. This is the same metal alloy that is in Israel's *One Lira* and *Half-Lira* pieces.

In order to give a uniform silver-like appearance to the *Official Mint Sets* starting in 1973, the 5, 20, and 25 *agorot* which are normally struck in a cupro-nickel-aluminum and have a bronze-like color were changed IN THE SETS ONLY to the same cupro-nickel composition alloy of the *half lira* and *lira* pieces.

The *one agora* piece was struck in the usual aluminum for the sets of

Continued on page 32

COINS OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

by David Hendin



Show me a serious collector of ancient coins who says he (or she) has never unwittingly bought an alerted or outright forged coin, and I'll show you a naive collector — or a person telling a fib.

There are many forged or altered coins, and the coinage of ancient Israel is not immune from this plague. Indeed, because of the high degree of interest in ancient "coins of the Bible," there may be more replicas in this field than in others.

Replicas made by museums in recent years have the word COPY stamped on them.

But many others do not. I once saw an entire "collection" that was made up of common forgeries of ancient Jewish coins. Each of the forgeries had been battered, retuned or dipped in acids to make it look more genuine.

Some coins thought to be forgeries are really controversial. It is not unusual to find two experts who disagree on whether a particular coin is genuine. Once I bought from a reputable dealer a large bronze coin of Vespasian with a "Judaea Capta" design on the reverse.

When I showed it to a friend he thought it was fake.

I took it to a man in New York who is said to be one of the world's greatest experts on ancient Roman bronze coins. He said it was fake.

The next time I visited Washington, D.C. I showed the coin to a curator at the Smithsonian Institute. He said it was genuine!

Finally, I had the coin sent to the ancient coin curator at the British Museum in London. The report came back that he had carefully examined

the coin and he believed it to be genuine.

"The coin does have a slightly cast appearance," wrote the British Museum curator, "but this is probably due to the fact that it may have been found at the bottom of the Rived Tiber."

Aside from outright forgery, there is the matter of retooling coins. This is especially dangerous in the larger bronze coins, but I have seen the tiniest Jewish leptons which have been carefully tooled to raise the relief of the coin, or even to change the legend altogether.

On the other hand, sometimes a coin is "tooled" simply to remove encrustation or patina, and the actual bronze of the coin is not really cut into. Sometimes it is difficult to tell exactly what has been done to a coin — if anything.

Here are some points from an excellent checklist that appears in the book of *"Selections from the Numismatist on Ancient and Medieval Coins."*

— "Examine the coin for general appearance.

— "Examine the coin with a hand lens. Does the edge show signs of joining? Are there any file or hammer marks present around the edge or around the dotted borders? (Hammer marks are expected on the Jewish silver coins of the First and Second revolts.) Are pockmarks of casting present on the surfaces?

— "Examine the legend carefully. Do the letters show signs of "tooling" or any form of alteration?"

— "Does the patina on bronze coins appear to be genuine?"

(This is a valuable guide, but remember that large number of ancient

bronze coins are found in a condition that necessitates cleaning and eventual retoning of the coin. Some collectors refuse to buy coins that have been cleaned. Such coins do not bother me as long as they have been cleaned lightly and carefully.)

—*"Is the coin the proper size and weight of similar coins of the period? Frequently forgeries will be too heavy or to light by a considerable amount.*

Final warning: Purchase ancient coins from reputable dealers who stand behind their sales.

If you are not satisfied with a coin's authenticity, check it with a expert in the field. The extra time will be well worth your while, and save future disappointment.

MASS. INS LEADERS HONORED



Ed Shade (left) and Irving Rudin won honors and plaques for their part in establishing the AINA forest in Israel.

JUDAICA AMERICANA Continued

found riches. Popper defended his concessions and his workers.

In 1889 Popper organized his "El Paramo" Mint and issued the two coins. The five gramos coin has on the obverse the name "Popper" on a band over crossed hammer and pick in a field of pellets, which probably represented gold nuggets. All are within a circle. The inscription around the circle is "*Tierra Del Fuego*" and the date 1889. The reverse has the word "gramos" on a band across a similar field and circle and a large figure 5. The inscription surrounding it is "*Lavaderos De Oro Del Sur*" (Gold Washing Company of the South).

The obverse of the one gramo coin is similar to that of the five gramos, except that the hammer and pick are absent from the field. The reverse has the crossed hammer and pick on the field of pellets, and the inscription "*El Paramo. Un Gramo*".

Mr. Popper's regime on Tierra Del Fuego was short lived. He ran into conflict with Felix M. Paz, the governor of the region, and an Argentine gunboat was dispatched to arrest him. Court action was started to cancel his mining concessions.

Julius Popper died in Buenos Aires in 1893, prior to the conclusion of the court case against him. To the last moment he had been in excellent health and spirits. Because a decanter of wine and an empty glass were beside his body when he was found, it was suggested that he committed suicide. Since there were no witnesses, the truth about his death will never be known.

The romantic story of the Jewish adventurer from Rumania was over, but his coins continue to appear periodically in numismatic auctions where they fetch very hefty prices.

The story of Julius Popper first appeared in *The Numismatist* (Volume 29, Number 9, September 1916, pages 385-387). It surfaced again in *The Holy Land Philatelist* (Number 9/10, 1955, p.263) in connection with the ten centavos stamp also issued by Julius Popper and listed in Gibbons' catalogue. A later version of the story appeared in the journal *Judaica Post* (Number 11, November 1960, pp.81-82). My column in *Coin World* was devoted to Julius Popper on May 15, 1974.

THE COIN'S THIRD SIDE

by Martin Morgenstern

When people speak of coins, they think of the obverse (head side) and the reverse (the back of the coin). People forget that the edge is the third side of the coin. In one of the Abbot and Costello movies, Abbot flips a coin and says, "*Heads I win, tails you lose.*" Costello asked about what would happen if the coin stands on its edge. Abbot informed his buddy that in that event he would let Costello win. The coin landed on its edge and rolled up against the wall making Costello the winner.

The edge is sometimes smooth. Sometimes it can be reeded (the ridges on the edge). The edge can be milled (ridge that is raised around the smooth edge). The edge can reveal letters or symbols (inscriptions around the edge).

The 1976 New Year's Token was produced in at least three varieties. The first is the AINA type. All the obverse are the same. The obverse depicts the stylized Star of David in multiple silhouettes. The face has written on it "*Greetings from Israel*" in both Hebrew and English. The reverse is in raised letters. It has the AINA emblem raised and the "*American Israel Numismatic Association*" written. The year 1976 is in English and Hebrew. The New Year's Token is 30mm and is of cupro-nickel medal. The rim is smooth.

The Israel Government Coins and Medal Corp. issued at least two types. The obverse has the same as AINA obverse. The reverse has in raised letters "*Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation*" in Hebrew and English. The Menorah is raised. The year 1976 is in English and Hebrew.



Reeded edge (top) is milled; other tokens of past are smooth and show production imperfections.

The edge is smooth. The size is 30mm and is cupro-nickel.

Another variety has a rim reeded edge. The reverse is the same as the same as the other NYT issued by IGCNC. The obverse has the same Star of David raised. "*Greetings from Israel*" is raised and written in Hebrew and English. The obverse side of the rim has a sharp metal burr raise around the circumference. It is important to note that only one side of the coin has the metal burr.

To one who studies tokens, the question that arises is: *how did the variation occur?* In order to understand this, it is important to know how coins or medals are made.

Tokens, medals and coins are made in the following steps:

- 1 — A design is planned for obverse, reverse and edge.
- 2 — A master die is made. The working dies are prepared from the master working dies.
- 3 — The metal is melted and refined in rolls.
- 4 — The rolls of metal are made into strips which are then thinned by pressure through rollers.
- 5 — The blanks are stamped out.
- 6 — Blanks are sent to the upset mill.
- 7 — The upset mill puts the ridge on the coin.
- 8 — The blank coins are washed and dried.
- 9 — Blanks go into the coin press. In the coin press the collar leaves the impression of the smoothness.
- 10 — Coins leave the press to be counted.

The question that arises is: *where were the 1976 rims produced?* Because of the burr on the edge, it is believed that the rim was not produced in the standard coin press. There are a few possibilities as to where the raised rim was made. The first possibility is that it was made in the blanking process. The second is that it could have been in the upset mill. The third choice is that it occurred in the stamping process. There remains the possibility that it happened in a later stage.

Continued next page

MIAMI GROUP HONORS TREASURER BARR



Sidney Olson (left) thanks Morris Barr, Treasurer for long service to Florida club.



Left: Ed Schuman; right, Auctioneer Jerry Trailins.

JUNE BANQUET OF INS OF MIAMI IS GROUP'S LARGEST

The largest banquet in the history of the INS of Greater Miami brought out 80 members and friends in late June, reports Sidney L. Olson, president of the Florida group. The banquet featured a gift of appreciation to Morris Barr, Treasurer of the Miami group for the past eight years.

The enthusiastic audience started out the meeting with the hubhub of activity and excitement when coins are distributed. Ed Schuman distributed commemorative coins to members who had placed orders earlier while on the other side of the room Auctioneer Jerry Trailins was receiving donations to be auctioned off for the Israel Emergency Fund. The auction brought in

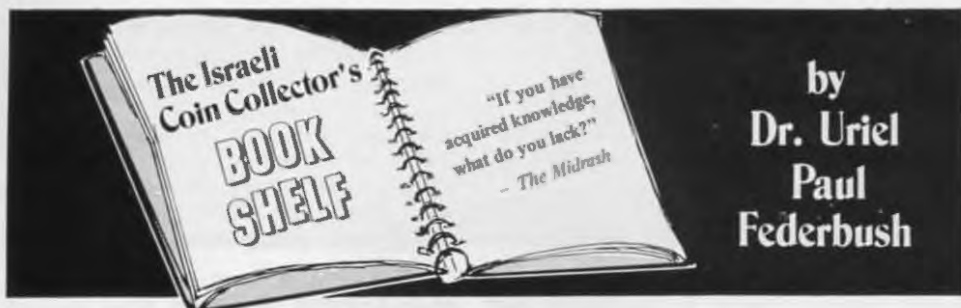
over \$1000 with enthusiastic auctioning by Jerry Trailins.

An auction was followed by a show of slides taken by Sidney Olson during the *Eighth Annual Study Tour to Israel* in March of 1976.

COIN'S THIRD SIDE

Continued

The importance of the rim has been over-looked. The rim is generally the part that shows the greatest amount of handling. The rim tells whether the coins metals have been shaved to reduce the medals metal content. Keep your eyes on the rim of the coins. These are a few possibilities; the final decision is yours.



In this article the series on books describing the currency of modern Israel and its immediate precursors will be brought up to date. To Mrs. Sylvia Haffner must go much of the credit for the prodigious efforts she expended to systematize and bring order to the field. Her work was instrumental in helping Israel numismatics grow to its present position of eminence. It is unfortunate that for various reasons she did not always receive the recognition due her.

The History of Modern Israel's Money 1917-1967 by Sylvia Haffner (San Diego: Sylvia Haffner, 1967). Paper and Hard cover. 196 p.

The History of Modern Israel's Money 1917-1970 by Sylvia Haffner (Tarzana: Philip J. Matthew, 1970). Paper and hard cover and loose-leaf format. 366 p.

These were Mrs. Haffner's pioneer works. The whole subject was approached from the very basics, making it most valuable for the American reader. The Hebrew alphabet and numbering systems were described in a manner so that everyone could learn them. The introduction was most informative with sections dealing with the history of Israel; the Bank Leumi Le-Israel (the first government bank); The Bank of Israel (the state bank since 1954); and the Israel Government and Medals Corp.

A consecutive numbering system for the Pruta and Agora series was set up. Their link with ancient Judean coins is indicated both pictorially and with short descriptions. The various varieties are well illustrated and described. The commemorative coinage is also covered in depth. There are excellent

illustrations throughout. The historical references to the symbolism on the Bank of Israel gold coin in the first edition is particularly good.

Sections are also included covering Patterns; Presentation Sets; New Year Tokens; Philatelic-Numismatic Covers; and Banknotes. Also depicted are the Hagana Defence Token; Emergency Small Change Tokens; Transportation and Telephone Tokens; and Cyprus Canteen Chits.

There follows an excellent Palestine section. This includes not only the mandate period, but also Egyptian and Ottoman Turkish currency used there. The latter is especially detailed in the second edition, which also depicts the Palestine Proof Set of 1927, and the Holyland Token.

The medals of Israel are next described in detail. The second edition enlarges on this by listing Presentation and Private medals as well as the regular State medals.

The book concludes with an interesting list of mints where the various trade and commemorative coins were struck, as well as the printers of Israel's banknotes. A bibliography is found at the end.

Israel's Money and Medals 1948-1973 (Tel Aviv: Israeli Numismatic Publications Ltd., 1974. Under License - Valley Stream, N.Y.: A.H. Kagan Ltd.) Soft covers. 314 p.

This was published as an update to the previous books. The numbering system is changed. The trade coin varieties receive full coverage. A welcome added feature is the identifica-

tion by Meshorer numbers of the ancient coins whose symbols adorn the modern currency. Unfortunately, however, the ancient city coins which are the basis of the medal series, CCM-1 - CCM-9, are not depicted as in Haffner's original books.

State and Commissioned Medals

The medal section is divided into State Medals and Commissioned Medals. However, as apparently the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp. played an important role in the publication of this book, medals not issued directly by them are not included. Missing are the Sinai Campaign, Nahariya, Tsava Hagana, Medical Society, and others. The book concludes with sections on Season's Greetings tokens and the banknotes of Israel.

Palestine is not covered at all. Also missing are other interesting sections in the previous Haffner books such as the introductory forewords which were particularly interesting and informative.

Israel's Money and Medals edited by Sylvia Haffner (Tel Aviv: Numismatic Publications Ltd., 1976. Under License — Valley Stream, N.Y.: A.H. Kagan Ltd.). Hard cover loose-leaf format. 390 p.

This is the latest in the series, and much work by many people went into its preparation. The loose-leaf format, with room for future additions, is a good idea. At a matter of fact, these additions (e.g. Palestine) will be forthcoming in the very near future. Others will cover small change tokens, and perhaps other topics will also be planned.

Haffner Praised

Kudos are due Mrs. Haffner for her continuing fine work, and to Mr. Kagan who published the book in what can only be described as a subsidized philanthropic undertaking. In addition, proceeds of the sale of books sent to Israel will be donated for the benefit of Israeli War Veterans.

Much added information is included in the book. Many trade coin varieties

are listed for the first time. Certain newly discovered commemorative varieties are also described. However, as an interesting aside, the reference to a secret "Shin Bet" medal struck in 1973 mentioned in the previous edition, is missing here. The Israeli Secret Service probably wanted to become invisible once more.

Also some of the items missing since Haffner's first books are again part of the book. An added section of Presentation Medals is included. Thus the Sinai Campaign, Nahariya, Tsava Hagana, and other medals are once more included. For the first time there is also a section on A.I.N.A. Medals.

As previously, there are current valuations of the coins and medals. The prices in the book were arrived at by taking an average of the valuation of American and Israeli dealers. As a matter of interest, the medal market "went crazy" as the book was being prepared, and it had to go back to the printers for price revisions. Even so, the prices seem to reflect Israeli speculative conditions rather than the market situation in America.

Some Faults

There are several other faults in what is otherwise an excellent book. Some of the illustrations, such as those for the one agora series, should have been improved upon rather than reproduces from the previous book. The same can be said for the picture on p. TC-89 of the Shekel — M-151 — perhaps the most beautiful ancient Jewish coin. The illustration on p. AC-17 is a disaster. Also be forewarned that p. AC-18 does not depict a rarity of rarities, but rather an upside-down reverse.

Much has been made of the new numbering system. However, rather than making things clearer, it seems to engender confusion. Thus for example Medal SM-6 is found on p. SM-17, and SM-44 on p. SM-57. Medal CM-68 is on p. CM-71, and banknote BN-10 is on p. BN-20. It would seem that improvement was not needed over the original Haffner system.



Desor

CLUB NEWS from INS NEWSLETTERS

A youthful, energetic rabbi with a collection of over 1,000 items of collectable Judaica, J. Benjamin Yablok, was a recent key speaker at the INS of New Jersey. His topic: *Holocaust Memorabilia*. Rabbi Yablok has appeared three times on NBC and is associated with the Young Israel of Scarsdale (if other NY-NJ clubs would like to invite him to speak) . . . At a follow-up meeting, Carl Rosenblum gave an in-depth review of the new Kagan book . . . Mel Wacks of the *INS of San Gabriel Valley* (Calif.) took part in the series of six Numismatic Study Sessions at the Whittier Library, lecturing on his favorite theme: *Ancient Coins of the Holy Land*, reports *The Olive Branch of INS-SGV*.

Sarah Breslow was installed as President of the *Israel Coin Club of San Fernando Valley* earlier this year . . . Sylvia Haffner was honored at the Fifth Anniversary of the *INS of New Jersey* where she presented a talk on Israeli Trade Coins. Among attendees were a carpool of guests from the newly formed *INS of Northern, N.J.* They took advantage of the event to invite the ever-gracious, enthusiastic Mrs. Haffner to invite her to meet their club . . . an event tentatively slated for September . . . *Was there a Doctor in the House?* Among subjects on the agenda for the July meeting of the *INS of Queens* (NY) was . . . *Doctors on Jewish Medals*. Did they mean a doctor a doctor, or a doctor a dentist, or a doctor a philosopher???

Got an idea for the design of the seal for the *INS of South Jersey*? A silver 25th Anniversary Medal is the prize for the best suggested design . . . Now

we've heard about a NEW classification within the numismatics arts: "Junk-box numismatics". *WINS* (Westchester Israel Numismatic Society) had a summer meeting based on "Junk-box numismatics", the prize found in a dealer's "junk-box" with members urged to bring their pet finds and favorite stories . . . Stanley Yulish' prize-winning exhibit at the AINA Convention of 1974 was presented as a slide presentation by Adolf Bondy at the *INS of Washington, D.C.* in late June.

GIFTS! The *INS of Central Jersey* had an Anniversary Gift Set for every pail-up member: a cu Szold IL 5 note; an Israeli telephone token; an AINA caliper . . . with all in a special envelope of which only 125 were "minted" . . . The June issue of *The Agora* published by the *INS of Cleveland* (Ohio) told of the 200-rials note produced for Iran with a *Star of David* in the design in the reverse; the note was withdrawn and re-issued. The re-issue then had another Star of David within the design. Another recall. If any of the "Star of David" notes are still in circulation, the Editor believes they will be found only in "uncollectible" condition.

The *INS of Maryland* reports that it brightened the meeting room, especially during a joint meeting with the Israel Philatelic Society, with posters obtained from EL AL . . . Are you Miami-bound? Hospitality Chairman writes to invite all to meetings of the *INS of Greater Miami* held on the 3rd Monday of the month at the American Savings Bank Building at Alton and Lincoln Roads, Mitmi.

ALEPH BETH (Cont.)

1973, 1974 and 1975 WITH THE ADDITION OF THE JERUSALEM MINTMARK, a six-pointed star. In 1976 ALL the six pieces including the *I Agora* are struck in the cupro-nickel alloy. *Talk about sleepers!* These *Official Mint Sets* are it, now that collectors of Israel's coins are spreading their interest into the varieties of commercial coinage.

Q. I have a 1973 Official Mint Set that does not have a serial number. The Kagan catalogue states that these sets were serially numbered. How much is mine worth? A. R., Richmond, Va.

A. The same as the other 98,249 sets. All were issued without serial numbers.

Q. I saw some listings of commercial coins of Israel listed as cupro-nickel.

AINA TOUR (Cont.)

have to be Jewish to have the interest in collecting coinage of Israel or to belong to an Israel Numismatic club. I really feel more could be emphasized on this subject.

Would I go on another AINA tour? My answer would definitely be yes. I only wish I were one of the fortunate ones able to go year after year. The tour is fully programmed with plenty of leisure time given. The guides take time to schedule evening events for those interested and with the drivers are a big part of making the tour a success.

I wish I could see the visit with all my fellow AINA tour members. I really do miss so many and I think of them often. When I ran into Dave Alexander of *Coin World* at the SIN Convention, it was like seeing an old friend. When I talked with Brian on the phone for nearly half an hour, I was really surprised when I asked him if he knew who I was and he said "mommie." Yes, I remember Tel Aviv, Haifa, Eilat, Sodom and Jerusalem.

YA'AKOV MESHORER

NOW CHIEF CURATOR

Noted Israeli archeologist, numismatist and author Ya'akov Meshorer has added the post of chief curator of Jerusalem's Bronfman Archeological Museum to his wide range of responsibilities.

A numismatist since boyhood, Meshorer is the Israel government's outstanding expert on ancient coins of the Holy Land. All hoards and individual coins found in the country cross his desk for evaluation and identification.

Meshorer is also a senior member of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, one of the world's most innovative museum facilities. The Bronfman Archeological Museum is devoted to the study and preservation of the materials of Israel's past, a full time operation in a country as devoted to archeology as modern Israel.

PALESTINE IN GUIDES (Cont.)

money is no longer accepted in Palestine, although it does pass in neighboring British-ruled Transjordan.

Governments come and go. Units of currency pass from the scene. Some things never change, however. For in 1924, *Cook's* still felt it necessary to inform its readers of the venerable tradition of *baksheesh*, inherited from the Turks and their predecessors:

"Baksheesh . . . the equivalent of 'gratuity,' 'tip,' or 'pourboire,' literally means a 'gift,' and it will probably be the first word the traveller will hear when he lands in the East and the last as he leaves it. Those who render him the smallest service will demand baksheesh, as likewise will those who render him no service at all. No hard-and-fast rule can be laid down, for the simple reason that the generosity of benevolent men and women, which finds expression in indiscriminate alms-giving and charity, even when known to be misplaced, refuses to be curbed. If each traveller would make it a rule never to give baksheesh except for some positive service rendered worth the sum given, he would confer a boon upon the people and upon future travellers."

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'Tricks' used on raid in Uganda

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV — About 50 Ugandan soldiers tried to rescue the Israeli force in Entebbe, the Chief of Staff, Lt.-Gen. Yehoshua Givli, said.

Hostages back to jubilant Israel

Jerusalem Post Staff
BEN-GURION AIRPORT — The hostages returned Sunday to scenes of national rejoicing reminiscent of the days following the Six Day War. They came home in three air force transport planes, two of which landed at Ben-Gurion Air "base" and the third at an air "base."

armed — some with pistols, others with Uzi's. He seemed to be on good terms with the terrorists. According to Givli, Amos commented on the "delay" in releasing the passengers. He said that it was only the Israelis who were refusing to release the terrorists in accordance with the "terms" of the agreement.



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